E. S. L. C. Examination and Nature Study.

209. **MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR** (*Shertallai*): (1) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of pupils in the last E. S. L. C. examination, who secured pass marks in Elementary Mathematics, had their average marks lowered because of Nature Study?

(2) Are the Government aware that the pupils of British India are not examined in Nature Study?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (1) 1,495; but 696 of these were eligible for admission to a University course although their average was reduced by Nature Study.

(2) Yes.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): In view of the large number of pupils who had their average marks lowered on account of Nature Study and also in view of the fact that pupils are not examined in this subject in British India, do the Government think it absolutely necessary to have this subject as part of the syllabus for the English School Final Examinations here?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I shall enquire that of the Director of Public Instruction.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PAINKKAR (*Shertallai*): Have the Government any objection to give Nature Study a place with Geography in the syllabus for Form VI?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): My answer is the same for this question also.

P. W. D. Maistries in Shertallai Taluk.

210. **MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR** (*Shertallai*): (1) Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the work of maistries in that taluk;

(*b*) the length of roads now existing in that taluk;

(*c*) the number of maistries there;

(*d*) whether these maistries are paid from the sum allotted for the taluk;

(*e*) if so, how much money was spent upon the pay of these maistries in 1101; and

(*f*) whether they think it necessary to maintain so many maistries in Shertallai?

(2) If the answer to part (1) (*f*) is in the negative, will they kindly see that the number of maistries in that taluk is reduced to a minimum?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (1) (*a*) Petty supervision in the construction and maintenance of roads, canals, bunds, bridges and buildings, collection of *Kuthakapattam* amounts, etc., and keeping and rendering accounts of stores and labour.

(*b*) Main roads, 16 miles, 5,160 ft. and village roads, 82 miles.

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(*c*) Work Establishment surveyor 1, and Boat Jetty maistries, Shertallai and Tannirmukkam 2, maistries for roads, canals, buildings, etc., according to actual requirements.

(*d*) The maistries are paid from the amounts provided for petty supervision in the estimate sanctioned for each work.

(*e*) Rs. 1,650, up to the end of Mithunam 1101, in the Shertallai P. W. Section.

(*f*) The maistries now kept are required for carrying out the works in progress in the taluk.

(2) This does not arise in view of the answer to part (1) (*f*).

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): With reference to the answer to part (*e*), will the Government kindly state the amount allotted for the Shertallai taluk under P. W. D. for 1101 ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I am unable to say that now.

Roads in Shertallai Taluk.

211. **MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR** (*Shertallai*): (1) Will the Government be pleased to state the breadth and thickness of gravel on the roads sanctioned for Shertallai at the last budget meeting in Karkatakam 1100?

(2) Are the Government aware that the breadth and thickness of gravel are insufficient to meet the requirements of a cart road ?

(3) Will the Government be pleased to take the necessary steps to make these roads fit for cart traffic and render communication easy?

(4) Are the Government aware that the road work so far executed is far from satisfactory?

(5) Are they also aware that, from the nature of the soil in the Shertallai taluk, the roads there need protection on either side by laterite stones?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (1) 8 feet width and 4 inches thickness for the Shertallai—Arukutti road, and 10 feet width and 4 inches thickness for the others.

(2) Yes.

(3) The 8 feet width of gravelling will be widened and thickened if cart traffic develops.

(4) No.

(5) Dry laterite stone protection will be provided where necessary according to necessity.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIAKKR (*Shertallai*): With reference to the answer to part (3), may I know whether there is any test by which we can determine whether in a particular taluk the cart traffic can develop?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): It is not a question whether cart traffic can or cannot develop; but when it develops, the width of the road will be increased.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): How can the cart traffic develop when the road itself is not wide enough ?

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